

# memorandum

date December 10, 2009

to Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

from ESA Adolfson

subject Potential Coordinated Study

## Background

As mentioned at the November 19, 2009 Flood Authority meeting, the Governor's Office has proposed an independent study of the water retention project and the Twin Cities levee project. As facilitator of the Flood Authority, ESA Adolfson has met and discussed the proposal with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Flood Authority as well as representatives from the Governor's Office, Congressman Baird's Office, the Corps of Engineers, Lewis County PUD, and the Washington Academy of Sciences.

Several options for completion of a study have been discussed. From these discussions, the original proposal was modified by the group to propose a coordinated study that could be completed by groups already working on the projects (such as the Corps of Engineers, EES Consulting, and Northwest Hydraulics). Once completed, the study could then be reviewed by the Washington Academy of Sciences or another independent agency if necessary. Other approaches to the study are still being discussed at this time.

The purpose of a coordinated study would be to develop comparable data on the benefits, costs and impacts of the Twin Cities Levee Project, the proposed water retention project, and various combinations of the two projects.

A coordinated study would require some additional work that would augment and be coordinated with the scope of work being proposed for Phase IIB of the upstream storage feasibility analysis. This approach would minimize cost and duplication of work and ensure that comparable data is used in both analyses.

## Next Steps

ESA Adolfson recommends that, at the December 17 meeting, the Flood Authority:

1. Agree to support efforts to develop a coordinated study of the two projects.
2. Authorize Bruce Mackey of ESA Adolfson to represent the Flood Authority in the development of the study (working with representatives from the Flood Authority, the State, Brian Baird's office, the Corps of Engineers, and Lewis County PUD). ESA Adolfson would not enter into agreements without prior approval of the Flood Authority.

With Flood Authority approval, ESA Adolfson will prepare to facilitate a discussion and present detailed information about possible approaches to the coordinated study at the Flood Authority work session on January 21<sup>st</sup>.